MARCH 14, 2003

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **March 14**. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities for 2002-03
Provincial Executive reviewed the updated Priorities Document which outlines action plans, who is responsible, target dates for implementation and action updates for the Association. Various Administrative Staff gave updates on sections of the Priorities Document and answered questions from Provincial Executive. The four priorities are: quality of teachers' work life; membership involvement; communications/public relations; teacher accountability/assessment/professionalism/certification.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

President's Report
Since the February meeting of Provincial Executive the President has continued his visitation program to schools within the province. He has attended several events in his capacity as NLTA President including bringing greetings to three new school openings in District 3, as well as the Opening Ceremonies of Education Week at G.C. Rowe Junior High School in Corner Brook. He met with the School Administrators Council Regional Executive, and several other groups on NLTA business. He did interviews with VOCM and CBC re the AIMS report, The Western Star and The Telegram re special education children, various Corner Brook media re Education Week, and Rogers Television re teacher issues.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President.

Resolutions to 2003 BGM
Provincial Executive reviewed all resolutions to Convention 2003. The resolutions and the Executive position on each will be forwarded to all delegates with the Convention kits.

For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Labrador Benefits Negotiations
Since May 2002 the Multi-Union Negotiation Team representing provincial employees in Labrador has been negotiating with the employers and Treasury Board officials in an attempt to improve the Labrador Benefits Agreement. During the sessions held in St. John's from February 24-25, significant movement occurred and a tentative agreement was presented to the membership during the first week of March 2003 with a ratification vote to occur later in the month.

If ratified by the majority of unions party to the agreement, this agreement will be signed to cover the period April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2005.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Collective Bargaining Committee
The Collective Bargaining Committee has been collecting information from teachers re issues and concerns for consideration during the development of the opening proposals for the next round of collective bargaining. To date, there have been over 100 submissions and many more are expected. The submission forms have been sent to schools and teachers are able to submit on-line through the NLTA website.

For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Collective Bargaining Committee or Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Workload Committee
The NLTA continues to pursue the carrying out of the workload study under Schedule M of the current Collective Agreement. As reported in a previous issue of Executive Notes, all parties have agreed on a researcher who will conduct a literature review, develop a survey instrument, administer a questionnaire, collect and analyse information, and write a report on the subject of teacher workload. Teachers can expect to be approached to participate in this study in the near future.

For further information contact Lloyd Hobbs, Assistant Executive Director.

Business from Standing Committees
TABLE OFFICERS

- The NLTA delegation to the CTF AGM in July, 2003 will consist of the President, Vice-President, President-Elect and Vice-President-Elect, with the Executive Director as the NLTA alternate.
- The NLTA will nominate President Winston Carter for the office of CTF Vice-President for 2003-04.

For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

CURRICULUM COMMITTEE

- The summary report re the questionnaire on Criterion Referenced Testing -- Grades 3 and 6, was endorsed by Provincial Executive and will be communicated to the membership.

  For further information contact Ted Murphy, Chair, Curriculum Committee, or Rene Wicks, Professional Development Division.

Other Business

- The NLTA and the Faculty of Education at MUN will endorse the concept of a jointly partnered on-line professional journal for educators, and the Virtual Teacher Centre will continue discussions with the Faculty of Education around the establishment of such a journal.

  For further information contact Alex Hickey, Coordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

- The NLTA will write a letter of support as per the request of the Retired Teachers' Association of Newfoundland and Labrador for ad hoc increases to teachers' pensions provided such ad hoc increases are not taken from the TeachersÕ Pension Plan.

  For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

Discussion Topics
The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow-up or future discussion: KinderStart Program, Educational Leave, and the Virtual Teacher Centre.

NEXT MEETING

A pre-BGM meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **April 22, 2003** in St. John's followed by Biennial Convention on **April 23-25, 2003**. The next regular meeting of Provincial Executive is scheduled for **June 6-7** in St. John's.For further information contact Winston Carter, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.